

POINTS TO BE MADE AT MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1974
AT THE PRESIDENT HOTEL

Necessity of Meeting -

I thank you all for accepting my invitation to attend this Meeting this evening. I thank you for allowing me to address you in this instance before we got onto any formal discussions. I realise without any doubt that there are more capable people than I here this evening but on the other hand in my own limited sphere of performance with regard to communal life I see certain shortcomings which I deemed absolutely necessary that a Meeting such as this should take place.

The mere fact that I have not invited Bishop. Eshong here is that a vast gap to be organised - It is not just that they are leaders - they remain as organisers - they know what they want & don't want - we must go like this because we can't invite to join us. I do not want them.

Type of Problems Faced

Schooling, Church, Social Activities, Family Problems, Old Age, Medical, etc.

Isolate and Look at our Duty in South Africa not Greece only, as Greeks -

We have had to face and we are going to face problems necessitating positive performance with regard to our organisation in South Africa, some our Country by birth and to others our adopted homeland. Let us realise at the outset gentlemen that we are now handling a lively political body.

Duty to perform with regard to South Africa -

Let us realise that we have a duty, not only to perform among ourselves with regard to the furthering of our communal life, but we now also have a duty to perform with regard to South Africa. The only way to do this is

by presenting a united front, by presenting a body which can be formally recognised by the central authority.

Organise for better representation -

I have no doubt that you are all aware that a number of Ministers have expressed the wish that it is superfluous discussing problems affecting the Greeks of South Africa with them if it is not done on an organised basis. We, gentlemen, let us bear in mind are going to have to work in an organised central body. We are going to be directed to participate very strongly in the organisation of Civil Defence.

No one is independent - we are all interdependent -

I have also received my instructions with regard to Civil Defence in South Africa pertaining to the Greek Community of Alberton. Let us not, gentlemen, start the usual business that we cannot co-operate, we are unable to co-operate, no gentlemen, we can co-operate, we must co-operate and we will co-operate because the body that is going to be formed is not going to tolerate people that cannot co-operate.

Let it be remembered that this body is going to adopt a positive attitude. We will not allow negative thought to enter this organisation. Let us not, gentlemen, try and specialise in disorganising ourselves, it is the easiest matter. Obviously there will be matters which we disagree with, but these matters are to be noted and to be discussed and the first possible solution to be found. It is obvious that we cannot have unanimous agreement and solutions positive to every aspect but the mere fact that we are aware and we record our problems and we record how each one is handling their problem in their specific area is allowing for this unity to develop. Is there a goal or do we just hope to say that we are learning Greek for the sake of heritage. All matters such as this need discussion from time to time.

Church Problem -

We are aware of our very, very serious problem that we are facing with regard to our Church. Not only the running, organisation and functioning of the Church in my opinion, but also the fact that certain things are taking place which is causing us to loose a lot of our followers, especially unfortunately, to Jehovah's Witnesses. I think we all have the courage of our convictions to agree that there are a lot of shortcomings in this capacity.

Example of Immigration -

Nothing can be done, gentlemen, if we do not present a united front. We want to form the background, the foundation of our movement. We do not want to tell each other how to run a dance or a social. We wish to discuss policy that may affect us, policy that whether we like it or not will rebound on to us and we have a moral duty to take care of these matters if we perport to be todays leaders of the South African Greeks.

Positive outlook needed -

Gentlemen, again I thank you but let us not become specialists in showing that there are matters that we cannot agree on, let not anybody please put forward in setting about a discussion on how to disagree. No gentlemen I ask you please to put forward positive statements if it happens to be negative in your mind change it into a positive factor before you make it known to the rest of us.